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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Eric Holder  
Attorney General, US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Mary Schapiro  
Chairwoman, US Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F St. NE  
Washington, DC 20549

Dear Attorney General Holder and Chairwoman Schapiro:

I am writing to express my outrage over the recently reported news that Transocean Ltd. gave its top executives "safety" bonuses for 2010 for achieving the "best year in safety performance in our company's history." On Friday, April 1, 2011, Transocean reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission that its safety record "met or exceeded certain internal safety targets concerning the frequency and severity of its accidents." I have a hard time understanding how a company can have its best safety year in the same year of an explosion of its oil rig, Deepwater Horizon, that killed 11 people and spilled 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

In December, 2010, the Department of Justice filed a suit against Transocean, BP, and others in an effort to recover billions of dollars from the companies they deemed responsible for the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion. The lawsuit says the "defendants failed to keep the Macondo well under control" and "failed to maintain continuous surveillance and failed to maintain equipment and material that were available and necessary to ensure the safety and protection of personnel, equipment, natural resources and the environment." A commission appointed by President Obama said the explosion was caused by a series of decisions by Transocean, BP, and Halliburton to cut corners and save time and money, that created an unacceptable amount of risk.

In testimony provided to the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on May 12, 2010, Steven Newman, Chief Executive Officer of Transocean, Ltd., talked about the importance of safety at this company. He testified that, "In 2009, Transocean recorded its best ever Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR). And the federal agency charged with enforcing safety on deepwater oil rigs,

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MMS, which – as you know – is a unit of the U.S. Department of the Interior, awarded one of its top prizes for safety to Transocean in 2009.” He went on to testify that “any incident is one too many” and said that the employee accident record for 2009 was unacceptable. He therefore recommended to the Board of Directors that they withhold bonuses for all executives because a stronger safety performance was not met.

It seems inconsistent to me that Mr. Newman deemed 2009 to be a year with an unacceptable safety record. Yet, in 2010, after being a part of the worst oil spill in history that killed 11 people and injured 16 others, he is now awarding executive bonuses based on safety performance. I would ask that you please investigate the accuracy of the claim that Transocean, Ltd. in 2010 achieved the “best year in safety performance in our company’s history.”

If this statement is unfounded, then there is a strong possibility that shareholders are being misled. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act imposed a requirement for public companies to provide shareholder advisory votes on the compensation of executives. It is necessary that we ensure that shareholders receive accurate information from these corporations. Please let me know what steps are being taken to ensure that Transocean is not misleading its shareholders and that bonuses being paid to Transocean employees for safety performance are appropriate. I look forward to a response within 10 business days of the receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,



Bruce Braley,  
Member of Congress